

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview on March 24, 2009 with the Attorney of Record, Raymond W. Augustin. See attached Interview Summary Form.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims (see amendment filed on March 16, 2009):

In claim 1, line 4: after "surface" and before "at" inserted - - , - - to correct a minor typographical error.

In claim 1, line 14: after "end" and before "bears" replaced "which" with - - , the second end having a lower surface that - - and further in the same line deleted "shank" to clarify applicant's invention.

In claim 4, line 12: after "second" replaced the phrase "head at an opposite end" with - - end - - to clarify applicant's invention.

In claim 4, line 15: replaced "nail" with - - locking nail - - to correct a minor typographical error.

In claim 4, line 16: replaced "nail" with - - locking nail - - to correct a minor typographical error.

In claim 16, line 6: after "shank" and before "the" inserted - - , - - to correct a minor typographical error.

In claim 16, line 10: replaced "screw" with - - first - - to clarify applicant's invention.

In claim 16, line 17: deleted "screw (first occurrence)" to correct a minor typographical error.

In claim 16, line 22: replaced "bearing" with - - biasing - - to correct a minor typographical error.

In claim 16, line 23: replaced "nail" with - - implant - - for consistency with claim terminology.

In claim 22, line 21: deleted "shank" for consistency with claim terminology.

In claim 25, line 18: deleted "shank" for consistency with claim terminology.

In claim 26, line 9: replaced "first screw head portion" with - - head of the first screw portion - - for clarity.

In claim 26, line 10: replaced "a nail" with - - an implant - - for consistency with claim terminology.

In claim 26, line 14: replaced "second screw" with - - screw second - - and further in the same line after "head," inserted - - and - - for consistency with claim terminology and clarity.

In claim 26, line 16: replaced "second screw" with - - screw second - - and further in the same line, replaced "an end" with - - a second end of the second biasing element - - for consistency with claim terminology and clarity.

In claim 26, line 17: replaced "a nail" with - - an implant - - for consistency with claim terminology.

Canceled claim 11.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anu Ramana whose telephone number is (571) 272-4718. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Barrett can be reached at (571) 272-4746. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AR
March 25, 2009

/Anu Ramana/
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